
 T H E 5 0 M H z D X B U L L E T I N

 VOLUME # 2 (F E B R U A R Y 1 9 9 1) ISSUE # 3

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N O R T H A M E R I C A N N E W S

ANGUILLA (VP2E) 6M OPERATION PLANNED: The DX Bulletin which is published by Chod Harris VP2ML reports that Bob Reiser AA1M and Ray Sylvester NR1R will operate /VP2E between January 28 to February 4, 1991 on SSB/CW (160-6M). No other details were available except that QSL's go via each respective call with a 29¢ stamp (SASE) because of the new postal rates which will become effective in early February.

CANADIAN PREFIXES: The DX Bulletin also reports that Canadian amateurs may use the following special prefixes during March and April 1991 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Ukranian Settlement in Canada:
 VO1 (VO7) VO2 (VO8) VY1 (VC1) VY2 (VC2) VE1 (VA1) VE2 (VA2) VE3 (VA3) VE4 (VA4) VE5 (VA5) VE6 (VA6) VE7 (VA7) VE8 (VA8) VY9 (VC9)

V290A TO GO QRT / V29A TO BECOME QRV: John Vugteveen W7KNT sends along the following news item:

"Just a note to advise the 6 meter group that V290A will be leaving Antigua on March 7, 1991 for a new assignment with the State Department in the Philippine Islands. The Swan 250 that was donated to V290A will stay on Antigua and will be moved to Jacques V29A will all QSL's for V29A going to W4FRU. During the 18 months that V290A was on 6 meters, Tom worked a total of 1623 contacts, 392 grids, and 67 countries with WAC. Anyone needing a QSL for a contact with V290A should forward an SASE to W7KNT so the remaining logs can be closed."

QSL INFO: V290A (via W7KNT): John Vugteveen, P.O. Box 64, Stevensville, Montana 59870

QSL INFO: V29A (via W4FRU): John H. Parrott Jr., P.O. Box 5127, Suffolk, Virginia 23435

VP5N DX-PEDITION RESULTS (NOV-DEC 1990): The following report comes from Joe Pater WB8GEX:

"Our DXpedition exceeded all expectations! The weather was perfect, the accomodations very nice and the radio conditions and contacts were superb. As for 6 meters, we had a beacon on full-time and then we would periodically put out calls on 28.885 MHz. However, we did not make even one contact on 6 meters. Thankfully, the conditions on the low bands were much different! Between the six of us we made 9100 contacts. As for Bob Cooper VP5D, I was told that he was living off the island and was off the air. Any QSL's for VP5N should be forwarded to Adrian Fallert WB8GEW."

XE1GRR (DL80): Thanks to several readers the QSL information for XE1GRR was sent to me for publication. A few of you sent along photo-copies of the XE1GRR QSL which shows that the 6M station consist of a Yaesu FT690R MK11 at 10 watts feeding a 6-over-6 array. Thanks for your help!

QSL INFO: Rafael Antonio Gomez XE1GRR, P.O. Box 1-1785, Guadalajara, Jalisco, C.P. 44100 Mexico

REPORT FROM K8WKZ: Dave Bostedor K8WKZ (MI EN72) sends along the following:

"The band was open on December 26th at 1540Z to DL, G, PA and ON. I worked two DL's for country #106 and two ON's for country #107. The 6M DXCC recipients from the ARRL are now as follows: #1 K5FF, #2 W5FF, #3 VE1YX, #4 JA4MBM, #5 JA1BK, #6 W2CAP/1, #7 K5CM, #8 K8WKZ. There are only two openings left to receive a plaque. I also have DXCC #3 from SMIRK - some are not sending in for it! It's a nice one!"

REPORT FROM WB8YFE: Ray King WB8YFE (IN EN71) sends along the following report:

"I had a 10M QSO with NL7OW on January 6th and he wanted me to get the word out that he now has a TE System amplifier (150 watts) on 6M and will continue to look to the lower 48 states for QSO's this summer via Es. Tom said conditions have been poor in KL7 also....not even many JA's. Conditions have continued to be poor here in Indiana also. Not much in the way of F2 here since early December. Although I missed the F2 opening on December 26th, I have worked GJ4ICD on December 7th and G1KDF, GM0EWX, GM0HBF, GI8YDZ and GI4GPC on December 9th. Also, there has been some pretty good Es this winter with openings noted on December 13, 24, 25, 26, and 31. I also now have a new FT690R II to use mobile this summer along with a Lunar 120 watt amplifier. I made some Es contacts just as soon as I put it in the car. I should be able to operate from most Indiana grids as I travel this summer."

HH7PV QSL SITUATION: Several readers were sorry to see that Art N2AU told G4UPS on December 31st that he had answered all HH7PV QSL's. One reader, Dick K0US, says that he has sent Art three (3) QSL's with SASE over a 13 month period for a December 3, 1989 QSO and still hasn't received a confirmation! Dick says that he will send Art another card and will report his results.

SJRA OFFERS "VHF CHALLENGE" AWARD: In 1991 the South Jersey Radio Association (SJRA) will celebrate a 75th anniversary coincident with the Bicentennial Year commemorating the adoption of the Bill of Rights by the 13 original states. To further commemorate these occasions, the SJRA will sponsor a "VHF Challenge" achievement certificate which is suitable for framing. To receive this award, one must communicate with each of the 13 original states on frequencies of 50 MHz or higher between January 1st and December 31st, 1991. QSO's must be complete two-ways from the same location by the same operator with no satellite or repeater contacts being allowed. The 13 original states are: NH, MA, NY, RI, CT, PA, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, and GA. Send a copy of your log with the entries that are pertinent along with an SASE to: The VHF Challenge SJRA, P.O. Box 1021, Haddonfield, New Jersey 09033.

SOMETHING MISSING ?? " THE FOLLOW UP " (DE GJ4ICD)

"Following my report on October 50 MHz propagation, I have now collected info from the USA and Japan for the month of October and believe me, it's very interesting indeed!! You may recall that on certain days when the "A" and "K" figures were very high and aurora was prevalent, openings were logged from Europe to VK and JA. Now I can give more information on these disturbed events. As I said before, many amateurs are misled because of high A and K figures. For instance, the most disturbed days of high geomagnetic activity were October 4, 10, 11, 12, 15, 20, 24, and 31. The "K" index for those days was 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 4, 4.

Many professional propagation experts predict that when these "high K" figures exist, no propagation on 50 MHz can be supported. Thanks to the information supplied from JA and the USA for the month of October, this is now proved **WRONG**. You must remember that even during massive auroral events over the past few years, that **OCCASIONALLY** the Trans-Equatorial path has been open, but, not to the extent of the reports from around the world for October. The dates below are the most disturbed days during October 1990:"

DATE	FLUX	A	K	DX WORKED
OCT 4	184	18	4	VS6 to V51, Japan to 7Q7, DU, VK4, VK8
OCT 10	192	41	4	Japan to VK2, 9H1 (Big Es in Europe)
OCT 11	202	35	4	Japan to PY2, VK6, W6 (European Aurora)
OCT 12	200	34	4	Japan to 5W1 & VK8
OCT 15	232	30	4	Japan to DU, LU, PY, VK4/6/8, Europe to ZS, A22, 9L1
OCT 20	200	18	5	Europe to DU, F to W/VE, G to JA (+ Aurora in Europe)
OCT 24	157	25	4	Europe to 9L1, 3X1, V51 (No data available from Japan)
OCT 31	143	21	4	VK6 to ZC4, G to VK6, G to HC5 (No data available from Japan)

" THE DARKEST HOURS " (DE GJ4ICD)

"Results from the recent CN2JP DXpedition show similar results happening in Japan. Both are at about 35° latitude and exhibit the same "DARK HOURS" of 50 MHz propagation sometimes via the long path. Joel CN2JP noticed this nearly every night. This was also noted by Mike Walters G3JVL on his many visits to EA8 - during daylight hours apart from "Es", there was no 50 MHz propagation. But as darkness fell, then 50 MHz opened up to PY/LU.

Other interesting points of note are: The 17th of October when JR6WPT at 0905 JST (0005Z) worked PY2DJC and 9H1BT via the LONG PATH (the European end being in darkness), and once again 9H1 is around the 35° latitude mark. I also believe places like Cyprus and Gibraltar are in this STREAM (and), if they had more dedicated people listening, would benefit from these openings. So there you have it! Interesting FACTS, not fiction....more of these openings should be collated between the USA, Japan, and Europe."

Geoff Brown GJ4ICD, TV Shop, Belmont Road, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands

REPORT FROM PA3EUI: Peter van der Woude PA3EUI sends along the following report:

"Conditions have not been too good and the only useful thing to do seemed to be to make a review of 1990 to see how good or bad it has been. Along these lines, I counted up all the days that we had ionospheric propagation (as well as the ones we hadn't) and came up with the following totals. (This is for The Netherlands (PA) only):

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	PERCENT
A	6	11	14	7	5	2	2	6	1	3	2	0	59	16%
E	11	2	2	15	26	30	31	26	15	15	13	7	193	53%
F2	10	12	21	9	5	0	0	0	5	21	20	22	125	34%
TEP	0	0	0	3	12	11	12	10	6	6	0	0	60	16%
None	8	11	4	10	5	0	0	5	12	6	6	8	75	21%

Just to make sure you understand this table, we will take **May** as an example. Looking under the month's name you will find: 5 under A (5 days with Aurora), 26 under E (26 days with Es), 5 under F2 (5 days with F2), 12 under TEP (12 days with TEP or TEP in combination with Es) and 5 under None (5 days with no ionospheric propagation being detected at all). The last row shows the total percentage of days in 1990 that this particular propagation was recorded. Looking at the statistics a few points can be made:

1. January and February showed F2 levels below that which was expected.
2. April showed F2 levels below that which was expected.
3. September through December showed far less auroral activity than is normally expected.
4. TEP propagation for October was greater than expected.
5. The number of days with Es was much greater than expected.
6. With only about 20% of the days not showing any propagation whatsoever, an 80% rate of days with propagation (or 4 out of every 5 days) isn't too bad for this latitude.

The cause for marginal F2 and poor aurora should (to my knowledge) be found in the extremely poor (quiet) geomagnetic conditions. Having had the vast majority of days with an A-index well below 10, it looked more like a year just before or just after the solar cycle minimum. It should have been between 15 and 25 most of the time, and only rarely did we get these numbers. Furthermore, when the flux did peak above the 200 mark, it didn't seem to matter much. In conclusion, (as far as F2 is concerned), 1990 will be remembered for its disappointing conditions. Let's hope that 1991 will be much better!"

QSL INFO: Peter van der Woude PA3EUI, Sparrendal 610, 3142LT Maassluis, Holland

BELGIAN PREFIXES: The OT prefix will be valid until August 1991 to celebrate the 60th Birthday of King Baudouin, which also marks the 40th Anniversary of his reign.

by: Peter van der Woude PA3EUI

15/01/91

After having read the remarks made by Geoff GJ4ICD and Shel NI6E I thought it had to be me next to make some remarks about how valuable or not the daily WWV-numbers are. For most I can go along with the remarks made by both gentlemen, but I think they did overlook something.

Instead of fixing all of my attention to the 'overrated' flux numbers I have been looking at the A-index, or better said at the geomagnetic activity and its relation to the MUF at middle latitudes. Since I kept very detailed records of the propagation from the day we PAs have been allowed on 6 meter (march '88) I've been able to compare the daily numbers and how they affected the propagation. One remark I find time after time: 'how is it possible, with such a quiet geomagnetic field, that the band doesn't open'. Surely a low A-index does not directly mean that propagation is whiped out, but in most cases the band doesn't really open up the way it does when this value is higher. What does cause this degradation is not known by me, but it may well be that with a lower A-index the usefull MUF goes to far to the north and only causes F2 propagation very near to the geomagnetic pole. Since there are no stations (amateur or commercial) at the latitudes in our frequency range it is hard to prove that these conditions do occur, and it is most likely that these openings only occur as single hop, so a linkage to another hop may well be nearly impossible. It would therefore be quite usefull if (maybe for next cycle) beacons could be activated very near to the geomagnetic Northpole. I mean within a few hundred km or so. Back to the middle latitudes again. It seems to me, being backed by my records, that best conditions occur when the following criteria are met:

- a) The flux has to gradually descend from a high or be more or less stable, but not rising.

- b) The A-index has to be between 10 and 20, when higher the aurora may kill the MUF, when lower just little or nothing happens.
- c) The most logic of the 3, it has to be the right time of the year (roughly september through to april).
- d) With an A-index between 10 and 20 it seems to be better with the k-index floating around 3 than when it violently fluctuates between 1 and 5 or so.

I am sure that quite a few of you will say: 'yes, but...', ok the theory is not 100 % proof, but it does really come close. And a thing you have to be shure about is if the propagation you are experiencing is just F2, and not TE or a combination of F2 with ES. Especially in Europe, with between 180 and 210 days with ES per year, it can sometimes be very difficult to prove the presence of ES and you can better assume it is there until you can prove that it isn't. When the above stated criteria aren't met there is still a chance to get a good opening, but its cause can often be found in a sudden impulse like the beginning of a geomagnetic storm when the F2-MUF is briefly enhanced by the rise in geomagnetic activity. These openings however in general don't last too long and are often followed by a spell of aurora.

Last, based upon an article by Henk PA2HJS, there is one more thing to be considered: after having gone through the past 2 cycles and putting all data in a computer Henk found that statistically the F2-MUF peaks every 10 to 11 days. The reason for this is not known, but it may well be usefull to look at what you have heard, and see if this fits into his theory. It may well bring us one step closer to predicting F2-openings on 6 meter.

If you fully disagree with me, than please don't hesitate to tell me where I have gone wrong. I would very appreciate to see more of these articles in the 50 MHz DX bulletin so if you got some usefull remarks to be made, than don't hesitate to write.

Good hunting, Peter.

REPORT FROM ZS6WB: The following letter was received from Hal Lund ZS6WB:

"Sorry I haven't written earlier to update you on current six meter happenings here in South Africa, but time has been impossible to find. With discount wars in our local computer industry, a generally poor economy and reasonably good band openings, all my spare time has been taken up by work and spending as much time as possible on six. As a result I have had to discontinue publishing the ZS VHF News.

The band has been almost completely dead here since mid-November when the last G's were worked. In the last six weeks there have been about half a dozen evening openings to the Mediterranean with I, F, 9H, SV, CN2 and TA4 worked in that period. Logs from last year show virtually nothing in January. Things will start to pick up slowly in February and by the end of the month we should have almost daily openings to the Mediterranean plus a few to G, OE, PA, etc. March will bring more of these plus a few LA, SM, OZ, OH and other goodies.

My country total is now 59 worked and confirmed and that could go up to 60 if the recent Penguin Island expedition is OK'ed by DXAC. My Grid Square total is 244 worked/208 confirmed, 157 from Europe, 63 Africa, 12 Asia, 5 Oceania and 7 North America. I still need South America to complete my WAC. I caught my first W opening on October 23rd and worked six W1's plus three VE1's.

I have upgraded the station during the past year and am now using an ICOM 575A driving either a TE Systems 0510G which puts out 170 watts or a Creative Electronics CE-1000-3A using a 3CX800A7 and putting out 400 watts with 10 watts in, generally just using the big one for MS work or very marginal DX openings. The antenna is an M2 2.5 WL which is 11 elements on a 50 foot boom at about 60 feet off the ground. Our new QTH is on a hill with a clear shot in all directions, the major problem being some line noise towards the U.S. and Australia.

1990 was a bit of a disappointment. Had hoped for more JA's and more activity on the east/west paths. In some respects 1989 was a bit better, but we had more W's and the first VK's in 1990. There were only four ZS-to-W QSO's in 1989 and 16 in 1990, 12 of this total made by ZS6LN who is 150 miles north of me and has much better propagation. Jack was active in Cycle 21 and based on his experience he feels that the best propagation is a year or two after the cycle peaks and that we should have a good year coming up. Based on this I've set myself some goals for this cycle, probably the most ambitious being to go after the JARL VU-1000 Award, needing 1000 QSL's on six. To accomplish this, I'll probably have to work about 75% of the stations in Europe active on six in order to accumulate sufficient QSL's. I am about halfway now with about 500 confirmations, but made a lot of contacts last year that aren't confirmed yet. Other projects for this year are trying to work 60 Italian provinces for WAIP (now at 53) and the PACC requiring 100 PA QSL's (now at 88 worked and 44 confirmed). As this may be the last year of really good propagation this cycle (at least we hope it will be a good one), I feel we should all do our best to stir up as much activity as we can this coming season.

It would be nice to see a few new countries from Europe this year during our prime DX season. Some prime candidates would be 1A0, SV5, SV9, HV, OH0 and OJ0. Maybe even Mount Athos or Albania if things go well. It would also be nice if HB0 could be on for another weekend as it was last year. By the way, I heard them with a good signal but couldn't make it through the European QRM. Perhaps other countries may allow similar short operations. For stations as far south as we are, there is no chance whatsoever of a 6M DXCC but it would be nice to up the total a bit before the end of the cycle.

I have available for DXpedition use down here an ICOM 726 with a 170 watt amplifier and a portable 5 element beam. This system has been used with some results from Lesotho and Penguin Island, but between poor propagation and bad timing, not too many European contacts were made. Rumor has it that there may be a 5R8 expedition in February and activity soon from Mozambique. Penguin Island may also be on again during March. This equipment will be made available to all as any of these locations should be excellent for TEP. There is a second system consisting of an ICOM 505 and amplifier that I am making available strictly for square bashing in South Africa and surrounding countries. Will try to get as many squares as possible on during the year.

The transceiver that I had promised 9J2BO was stolen before I could send it. I have now gotten something else for him and will try to get it to him as soon as possible. An ICOM 551D had been loaned to ZS8MI and has been down there now for almost two years. During that time it contacted about 500 JA's and 3 ZS's (I am not one of them). Prior to shipment there it was used by A22KZ for several months when he made the first Africa-to-UK QSO's of the cycle. I also have another 551D that was with 3DA0AU and is now with 3DA0BK on a more less permanent basis.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could use any means you have available to promote six meter DX activity during 1991. Expeditions to rare areas will not only give opportunities for new countries, but will provide useful data on little-explored propagation paths. I am hoping for better propagation to the states this year and would like to get you in my logbook. This path will start to open around October 23rd. Please encourage HF DXpeditioners going anywhere around the DX seasons to take six meter equipment along and to use it. Many take it, turn it on and hear nothing, so they turn it off again. Obviously, six meter DXpeditions are best accomplished by experienced six meter DX'ers. Best regards."

Hal Lund ZS6WB, P.O. Box 27746, Sunnyside, Pretoria 0132, Republic of South Africa

SOUTHERN AFRICA 6M AWARD: This is a reminder that the S.A.R.L. has available an award for those who can show proof of having completed two-way 6M QSO's with stations in at least 10 different grid squares on the African continental mainland SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR after January 1, 1986. Send the cards or photo-copies certified by a representative of your national amateur radio organization and 5 IRC's to: VHF Awards Committee, Pretoria Branch, S.A.R.L., P.O. Box 1259, Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa.

7Q7JA MALAWI: The 6M World News which is published by JR3HED reports that QSL's being sent to 7Q7JA direct must be sent to Private Bag 28 AND NOT P.O. Box 28. Therefore, the correct address should read: Yoshitaka Kawaku, Private Bag 28, Mana, Blantyre, Malawi, Africa. As 7Q7JA, Yoshi has worked 39 DXCC countries.

1990 KA3B 6 METER REPORTS: A limited supply of the entire set of the 1990 KA3B 6 METER REPORTS is available. The entire set of REPORTS in a folder (which amounts to 128 pages of DX info, QSL info, equipment news, beacon updates, etc) can be purchased for \$20.00 payable to Harry Schools. The complete set will be sent via First Class mail (or Air Mail for DX stations). In addition to the REPORTS, I will also include a 25 page pamphlet concerning the history of 6 meters.

T31KY CENTRAL KIRIBATI: Kiyoko Showed up on Canton Island beginning January 18th and immediately began raising pile-ups on 10 meters. She brought along a TS680, TR9300, 80 watt amplifier, and 4 element yagi-uda for 6M. She says she's leaving a receiver on 50.110 all the time, but not running a CQ'er or beacon. Her antenna beams towards North America, at least during F2 hours. As of January 22nd, there has not yet been any propagation to Canton, but she expects to be there at least through the beginning of February and perhaps a week beyond that, depending on when the supply boat returns from Kiritimati. She's still giving her QSL address as: Kiyoko Yamakami, P.O. Box 3, Tokaimura 31911, Japan (although JA1VOK recommends inserting "Naka-gun, Ibaraki after Tokaimura). (Tnx NI6E/KH6)

JOHNSTON ISLAND (KH3): Yet another operator is reportedly using AH3AD's 6M rig - Richard KH6CJQ/KH3. No other information was available.

KERMADEC (ZL8) & AUCKLAND (ZL9): Recent word has it that Kerry ZL2TPY has cancelled the ZL8 plans and instead will be going "quite soon" to ZL9. Later on, he may also operate from Tokelau ZK3. (Tnx NI6E/KH6)

COCOS (VK9): VK3OT says that a JA group will activate Cocos starting April 2nd, including 6M.

VK9YQS LORD HOWE: The expected end of this operation will be around March 23rd.

NEW ZEALAND (ZL): A fine off-season opening occurred between ZL and Alabama/Mississippi/Louisiana/Texas/Arkansas/Nevada/California on January 13/14 between 2200 and 0130 UTC, and at 0000 UTC, Arkansas worked Tasmania as well. Word was later passed that CULEZ heard ZL's at 2300 UTC on or around that date! Also, VK7IK heard AL7C Anchorage early on the 13th UTC. Be ready for possible 27-day repetitions around February 9th, March 8th, and April 4th. Also note that many South Pacific-to-Stateside openings occurred in February 1990 including VK4-to-VE3/W1/W2/W3/W8/W9 around 0030 UTC on February 27th. As with May and September, there is a tendency for February to be underestimated, which can be self-fulfilling prophecy. (Tnx NI6E/KH6)

KG6UH/DU1 PHILIPPINES: Louis reported an isolated opening into Finland at 1000 UTC on January 2nd. No other Europe-to-Pacific has been reported since early December.

V85 OPERATION PLANNED BY JA9AG: Yutaka JA9AG will be active on 6M as V85AG (or) V85/JA9AG between February 8-10. He will be operating on the HF bands as well, but he will have a beacon transmitting on 50.100. **QSL INFO:** Yutaka Yoshii JA9AG, 3-33 Nakataikoyama, Kosugi, Toyama 939-03, Japan

FO5DR BEACON: I have received word that the FO5DR beacon is running on a limited schedule due to TVI and may have to be relocated.

SOUTH COOK (ZK1): The DX Bulletin which is published by Chod Harris VP2ML reports that Joe Adams VE3CPU will be active as ZK1XU for one month beginning January 25th (160-6M operation). QSL to home call.

SAIPAN (KH0) OPERATION PLANNED: Mat JE2KCP reports that his friend JF2MBF (Mitsunobu Ichino) who has operated on 6M before as T22JJ, BT1HHL, BT4RJU, and 8Q7TT, will be operational from Saipan between February 9-11 using an IC726 and a 150 watt amplifier feeding an HB9CV yagi. Since JF2MBF recently passed the exam for his US license, his callsign may possibly be KC6BLA/AE/KH0 or something along those lines. QSL routing was not mentioned so I am assuming it will be via JF2MBF's home call.

FIRST EUROPE-TO-SE AUSTRALIA 1990: This information is somewhat dated, however, due to its importance I felt that it should be published. The information below originated from VK3OT and was passed along to me by JR3HED after receiving it via packet on the JI3YUB/BBS:

"Following several hours of Chinese Video transmissions on November 16th and hearing the JA6YBR beacon on 50.016 MHz and JA5FFJ on 50.055 MHz, the JA signals disappeared and OH2HK was heard calling CQ on 50.105 MHz at 0936 almost over the polar path. Signals peaked 559 at 0937Z after which he disappeared. He worked VK3OT and then around 0940Z, VK3AMZ some 300 km further east from my location. At 1004Z he contacted VK3AMK on SSB 5x5 and was heard calling CQ on 50.125 MHz after 1000Z. The most prominent features were the 48.248.8 TV at 599+ and also two other offsets on 48.260.4 and 48.250.0 all from 330° beam heading. VK3AMZ reported signals from OH2HK shifted southwards and he beamed 300°. The other most notable feature was the decrease in signal level from the UK on 28.885 making liaison impossible. Signals from OH2HK, OZ4WV and OY9JD on 10 were however very good. This is almost 1 year from the signals we worked in Finland in 1989 and nearly 2 years since OH1VR/ heard VK3OT on 50 MHz at 0745Z."

ZL2VHM BEACON CUSTODIAN INFO NEEDED: In order to get a 1991 beacon survey form completed for ZL2VHM (52.250 & 52.500 MHz), I need to know who the beacon operator/custodian is. The call ZL2VHM does not appear in the 1991 Callbook.

A S I A N N E W S

JA7ZMA BEACON CUSTODIAN INFO NEEDED: In order to get a 1991 beacon survey form completed for JA7ZMA (50.028 MHz), I need to know who the beacon operator/custodian is. My initial survey form was mailed to the address which appears in the 1991 Callbook - Murahachibu Club, c/o Yoshiaki Takano, Shimaukita, Fukushima, Fukushima 960, Japan. However, the letter was returned as undeliverable. Can anyone help?

MONTHLY DXPEDITION CALENDARS: Several readers have inquired as to the absence of the DXpedition Calendars which were included with each of the 1990 6M Reports. Due to the postal rate increase which is to take effect on February 3rd and due to a slight increase in printing costs, the DXpedition Calendar will only be included during months of high activity (ie: March/April TEP period, June/July Es period when many operations typically take place.) If there isn't a large number of operations scheduled during these periods, then the calendars will not be included. The frequent mailing of beacon/activity survey forms worldwide has eroded the small excess of funds which were available. However, when these surveys are returned, it provides the readership with useful information which has been verified. I for one believe that verified international news items are more important than calendars (although I'll admit that they were handy). If I am wrong, let me know! My primary goal is to provide an affordable newsletter and I would like to keep a "cap" on things if possible.

CP1AA BOLIVIA: Kevin KB6SL/CE3 paid a visit to La Paz in January and showed up on 28.885 MHz at the controls of club station CP1AA. Unfortunately, he was plagued by manmade noise there. Kevin passed along the following information: he spoke with club members about 6M and they are "very interested." What they need are (hopefully) two loaned or donated rigs, one (with a decent noise blanker) for the club station, and another that could be loaned to an active DX'er and perhaps rotated to other DX'ers. The club station has an extra tower which could be devoted to 6M antennas. Kevin is the "point man" and can be reached on 28.885 (via NI6E/KH6 if necessary), and he will contact CP1AA. Shipment is no problem as CP op (Lloyd) is posted in Miami with Bolivian Airlines and will arrange free shipment of 6M gear.

On another front, I just had a nice long chat with Darrol OASABT on 6M about Bolivia (he was CP8AZ in Cycle 21). He has American friends in Santa Cruz, Bolivia with a missionary group. Glen CP6BY and his XYL Judy have daily skeds with WD4CRB in Florida. Darrol says Santa Cruz is an idyllic location for radio (elevation 600', surrounded by flat plains). He is trying to contact Glen and Judy to discuss 6M with them. (Thx NI6E/KH6)

HC2FG BEACON: The HC2FG Beacon is finally back on the air, with some changes. Exact zero-beat frequency is 50.099.95 (call it 50.100.0) and it transmits: "VVV DE HC2FG HC2FG HC2FG" then goes silent for a minute. The repetition rate is 80 seconds; message duration is 21 seconds, so the silent period is 59 seconds. It sounds as if it's running lower power than when last heard in May 1990. (The 1991 beacon survey form sent to HC2FG has not yet been received).

XQ0X SAN FELIX: Kevin KB6SL/CE3 reports that CE3ESS (the liaison man) has apparently gone on vacation through the end of February and the 6M gear will be shipped to San Felix on his return.

VP8CEX FALKLAND ISLANDS: As reported in the last issue, VP8CEX is active on 6M. I have received word that he is using a brick amplifier and 4 element beam, and likes to frequent 50.110 and 50.120 MHz.

HC2GE ECUADOR: Jim HC2GE has received a package of 6M amplifier information from NI6E/KH6. Jim says that he is now saving his money for a TE Systems 0508G (1 watt in, 170 watt out) amplifier. Jim has already worked 59 countries on 6M with 1.4 watts output, reinforcing the idea that the Southern Hemisphere is the best place to operate on 6M.

REPORT FROM ZP6XDW: Doug Wooley ZP6XDW of Caacupe, Paraguay reports that he made 368 6M QSO's during 1990 which included 124 JA's and 72 W's. Countries worked by Doug during 1990 included: 5H1, 5W1, 6W1, 8P6, 9H1, 9L1, 9Y4, CE0A, CE, CX, EA8, FG, FK, FM, FO, FW, HC, HI, HK, J37, J79, J88, JA, JD1, K, KG4, KG6, KH6, KP2, KP4, LU, OA, P4, PJ2, PY, PY0, PZ, SV, T20, TI, TR, TU, V29, V31, V47, V73, VR6, YV, ZB, ZC4, and ZF.

QSL INFO: Doug Wooley, P.O. Box 73, Caacupe, Paraguay

FELJKK/FY QSL SITUATION: After much confusion and heartburn, the FELJKK/FY QSL situation has finally been cleared up once and for all. Ted WA4VCC ran into FELJKK on 10M and Eric complained about his QSL Manager. Eric stated that QSL's for his French Guyana operation can be sent to him at:

QSL INFO: Eric Jauch, 8 Lot. Le Norvais, 56250 Monterblanc, France

(I would also like to thank others who also sent along information regarding this situation...KA3B)

NOTE: As mentioned in the last issue under the "African News" section, FELJKK will be the station who will be active as TT8AQ from Chad from February through May 1991. More info when I receive it....KA3B.

REPORT FROM KB6SL/CE3: Kevin Szot KB6SL/CE3 reports that he has been active for about one year now from Chile on 6M. During this time he has worked 55 countries with 50 confirmed and 10 US States worked. His operating QTH is the Farrellones Ski Resort (2850 meters high) in the Andes Mountains in grid square FF46. Kevin says that he is operational with a Kenwood TS680S with either 150 or 1000 watts output and an M2 9 element yagi.

QSL INFO: Kevin Szot, c/o Citibank NA, Ahumada 48, Santiago, Chile

THE USE AND MISUSE OF 50.110 MHz: Unfortunately, a large number of South American operators are notorious for working pile-ups of stations on the DX Calling Frequency hour after hour. At times, two (and sometimes three) pile-ups can be heard simultaneously on 50.110 MHz. This is ridiculous and uncalled for! Of late, several stations have complained about the operating habits of FK8EB in New Caledonia, who refuses to move off the Calling Frequency once it has been determined that the band is open. PLEASE FELLAS!!!!...LET'S GET WITH THE PROGRAM!!!

THE 50 MHz DX BULLETIN

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TO: